

SECRETARY OF DEFENSE WILLIAM J. PERRY
REMARKS EN ROUTE TO SEOUL, KOREA
APRIL 18, 1994

SECRETARY PERRY: I WANT TO START OFF WITH A VERY BRIEF ANNOUNCEMENT ABOUT THE REMAINS OF 12 AMERICANS WILL BE FLOWN INTO DOVER TOMORROW AND THERE WILL BE NO CEREMONY. INSTEAD EACH OF THEM WILL BE SENT TO THEIR RESPECTIVE HOMES WHERE THE BURIALS WILL TAKE PLACE.

DR. DEUTCH ATTENDED A MEMORIAL SERVICE IN INCIRLIK, TURKEY LAST NIGHT...DR. DEUTCH AND ADMIRAL OWENS. WE ARE GOING TO HOLD A MEMORIAL SERVICE AT ARLINGTON CEMETARY (CORRECTION: AT THE MEMORIAL CHAPEL AT FORT MYER) NEXT TUESDAY, A WEEK FROM TOMORROW, WHICH IS GOING TO BE HONORING ALL OF THE PEOPLE WHO LOST THEIR LIVES IN THE GULF WAR. NOT ONLY THE MILITARY PEOPLE, BUT THE STATE DEPARTMENT AND THE FOREIGN MILITARY PEOPLE WHOSE LIVES WERE LOST AS WELL. THAT WILL BE A WEEK FROM TOMORROW AT THE MEMORIAL CHAPEL AT FORT MYER.

QUESTION: WHAT ABOUT THE OTHER THREE REMAINS?

SECRETARY PERRY: THEY ARE STILL WORKING ON THEM. THEY HAVE THE FORENSIC AND THE MORTUARY PEOPLE OVER IN GERMANY STILL WORKING ON THOSE OTHER THREE. I DO NOT HAVE A SCHEDULE FOR THEM RETURNING TO THE UNITED STATES YET.

QUESTION: DO YOU HAVE ANY INFORMATION ABOUT THE INVESTIGATION INTO THE ACCIDENTS...

SECRETARY PERRY: NO. IT IS CONTINUING. I THINK WE WILL START TO GET SOME SIGNIFICANT FINDINGS ON ELEMENTS OF THAT INVESTIGATION THIS WEEK, BUT WE ARE CERTAINLY SEVERAL WEEKS AWAY FROM HAVING ANYTHING LIKE A FINAL REPORT ON IT. THIS IS A COMPLICATED INVESTIGATION THAT INCLUDES MANY ELEMENTS AND YOU HAVE INDIVIDUAL'S REPUTATIONS AND CULPABILITY AT STAKE HERE SO WE HAVE TO BE VERY CAREFUL ABOUT HOW WE PROCEED ON THIS.

QUESTION: ...WAS IT THAT YOU REFERRED TO AS THE HAIR TRIGGER SITUATION OVER THERE? I MEAN, IT HAS BEEN QUITE A WHILE SINCE THE GULF WAR...ONE OF THE FIRST THINGS YOU TALKED ABOUT...WERE YOU REALLY AWAKE BEFORE THEN THAT THEY WERE IN SUCH A SITUATION TO SHOOT WITHOUT SOME WARNING?

SECRETARY PERRY: AS I REVIEWED THE PROCEDURES IN SOME DETAIL AND COMPARED THEM WITH THE PROCEDURES WE HAD PUT TOGETHER IN BOSNIA, THE THING THAT WAS LACKING WAS A DISCRIMINATION BETWEEN HELICOPTERS AND FIXED-WING AIRCRAFT, COMBAT AIRCRAFT. AND SO, WE REVISITED THE PROCEDURES.

QUESTION: WHAT DO YOU MEAN BY DISCRIMINATION?

SECRETARY PERRY: THERE ARE A DIFFERENT SET OF PROCEDURES FOR HELICOPTERS VERSUS TACTICAL AIRCRAFT. THE REASON YOU CAN HAVE MORE PRECAUTIONS AND TAKE LONGER ON THE HELICOPTER IS YOU SIMPLY HAVE MORE TIME. WHEREAS, IF YOU ARE DEALING WITH A JET GOING AT 500 KNOTS, THEN THE TIME TO MAKE A DECISION IS MUCH LESS AND SO WE REFLECTED THAT IN OUR BOSNIAN PROCEDURE AND WE HAVE REVISED THE IRAQ PROCEDURES TO REFLECT THAT SAME REQUIREMENT FOR GREATER CARE AND GREATER CHECKS IN THE CASE OF HELICOPTERS.

QUESTION: WHEN WAS THAT CHANGED?

SECRETARY PERRY: ...THE DAY BEFORE YESTERDAY...WHENEVER WE HAD THAT PRESS CONFERENCE...TWO DAYS AGO...ON FRIDAY.

QUESTION: WAS THAT THE OPERATIONAL CHANGE YOU WERE TALKING ABOUT?

SECRETARY PERRY: YES...THERE WERE OTHER CHANGES TO BE HONEST WITH YOU BUT THAT'S THE ONLY ONE I CAN DISCUSS.

QUESTION: SO YOU TAKE MORE TIME NOW WITH AN AIRCRAFT THAT MIGHT BE A HELICOPTER BECAUSE YOU FIGURE YOU HAVE MORE TIME TO DO THAT?

SECRETARY PERRY: WE REQUIRE GREATER CHECKS TO BE MADE WHEN IT'S A HELICOPTER BECAUSE WE HAVE MORE TIME TO DO THAT.

QUESTION: DOES THE PILOT STILL HAVE THE AUTHORITY TO SHOOT?

SECRETARY PERRY: I CAN'T ANSWER THAT, ART, THAT REALLY GETS INTO THE VITAL PARTS OF THE RULES OF ENGAGEMENT.

LET ME SWITCH OVER TO BOSNIA, IF I MAY, AND GIVE YOU A FEW MINUTES ON THAT. WHAT I'D LIKE TO DO IS HOLD THE DISCUSSION ON BOSNIA TO ABOUT FIFTEEN MINUTES, WHICH IS A REASONABLE AMOUNT OF TIME TO TALK TO YOU BUT I DON'T REALLY HAVE MUCH NEWS ON IT; TO BE HONEST WITH YOU, AND THEN SAVE ABOUT HALF AN HOUR OR SO FOR TALKING ABOUT THE KOREAN PENINSULA BECAUSE THAT'S YOUR REASON FOR COMING ALONG.

IN BOSNIA, I WANT TO REMIND YOU, BECAUSE THIS POINT IS CONTINUALLY LOST IN THE DISCUSSIONS AND DEBATE ON BOSNIA, THE UNITED STATES' INVOLVEMENT IS THERE TO SUPPORT THE UNITED NATIONS' PEACEKEEPING OPERATIONS. WE ARE NOT THERE AS A COMBATANT IN THE WAR ON THE SIDE OF THE MUSLIMS AND THAT SEEMS OBVIOUS BUT I THINK I HAVE TO STRESS IT BECAUSE MANY OF THE COMMENTS, MUCH OF THE CRITICISM STARTS OFF WITH AN INCORRECT ASSUMPTION THAT WE'RE THERE AS COMBATANTS. WE ARE NOT. SECONDLY, WE HAVE CHOSEN TO LIMIT...IN THAT SUPPORT TO THE UNITED NATIONS, WE HAVE CHOSEN TO LIMIT THE MILITARY POWER WE WOULD USE TO AIR POWER AS PART OF A NATO AIR FLEET. AND THAT, THEREBY, LIMITS THE OPTIONS OF WHAT WE CAN DO TO WHAT YOU CAN DO WITH AIR POWER ALONE. THIRD, THE PRIMARY EMPHASIS ON WHAT WE HAVE BEEN DOING IN BOSNIA HAS BEEN DIPLOMATIC NOT MILITARY. AND THE MILITARY THAT WE ARE DOING IS THE "HAND MAIDEN" OF THE DIPLOMATIC FUNCTIONS THEY'RE TO SUPPORT. NOW YOU THINK OF THE THREE MILITARY THINGS WE HAVE GOING THERE WHICH ARE THE CLOSE AIR SUPPORT, THE NO-FLY ZONE AND THE SARAJEVO NO-BOMBARDMENT ZONE. ALL OF THOSE ARE IN VERY DIRECT SUPPORT OF OUR DIPLOMATIC NEGOTIATIONS. AND THE FOURTH POINT I WOULD MAKE ABOUT OUR POLICY TO DATE, HAS BEEN THAT WE HAVE NOT TAKEN ANY ACTIONS, WE HAVE CONTEMPLATED ACTIONS THAT WERE UNILATERAL. WITH MORE THAN TEN THOUSAND U.N. TROOPS ON THE GROUND, FOR US TO GO IN AND TAKE UNILATERAL MILITARY ACTIONS PUTS ALL OF THOSE FORCES AT RISK AND WOULD BE IRRESPONSIBLE.

NOW WHAT I HAVE DESCRIBED TO YOU BRIEFLY HAVE BEEN FOUR TENANTS, FOUR LYNCH PINS YOU MIGHT SAY, OF OUR POLICY TO DATE. AS YOU ALL KNOW WE SPENT THREE HOURS THIS MORNING WITH THE PRINCIPALS COMMITTEE REVIEWING OUR POLICIES. THERE WILL BE ANOTHER MEETING TOMORROW REVIEWING IT AGAIN AND WE ARE CONSIDERING CHANGES IN POLICY, CONSIDERING VARIOUS SORTS OF ACTIONS WE CAN TAKE WITHIN THE POLICY AND ALSO CONCEIVABLE OPTIONS THAT WILL CHANGE THOSE BASIC POLICIES.

I HAVE NOTHING TO TELL YOU ABOUT THAT SINCE THE DECISIONS HAVE NOT YET BEEN MADE. WE BELIEVE THAT THE POLICIES THAT WE FOLLOWED TO DATE HAVE HAD SOME VERY IMPORTANT SUCCESSES. IN SARAJEVO, IN KRAJINA, AND IN THE BOSNIAN/CROATIAN PEACE AGREEMENT AND WE WANT TO SUSTAIN THOSE SUCCESSES. WE ALSO HAVE TO RECOGNIZE THAT THE SERBS CLEARLY VIOLATED AGREEMENTS THAT THEY HAVE MADE WITH THE U.N., INDEED WITH THE RUSSIANS AND THAT CREATED A VERY GRIM AND BASICALLY UNPREDICTABLE SITUATION IN GORAZDA THEREFORE THE MEETING THIS MORNING WAS TO SEE WHAT WE COULD DO IN RESPONSE TO THOSE ACTIONS THAT COULD REGAIN THE MOMENTUM WHICH WE HAD ACHIEVED IN THE LAST TWO MONTHS WHICH HAD LED TO THE SUCCESSES IN SARAJEVO AND IN KRAJINA AND WITH THE MUSLIMS AND CROATIANS. THE

MEETING AS YOU CAN IMAGINE CONSIDERED A WIDE RANGE OF OPTIONS. WE DID NOT ARRIVE THIS MORNING AT A DECISION. WE DIDN'T EXPECT TO HAVE A DECISION AT THIS MEETING THIS MORNING. THE WHOLE PURPOSE OF ALL OF THE OPTIONS THAT WE CONSIDERED WAS TO REGAIN THE MOMENTUM LEADING TO A CESSATION OF HOSTILITIES AND LEADING TO A PEACE AGREEMENT. SO THE UNDERLYING OBJECTIVES WE HAVE REMAIN THE SAME, TO TRY TO GET THAT CESSATION OF HOSTILITIES AND TRY TO GET TO A PEACE AGREEMENT. IT IS FAIR TO SAY THAT AS A RESULT OF THE SETBACK DURING THE LAST WEEK BY THE SERBS (INAUDIBLE) DISAGREEMENT THAT WE FELT WE NEEDED TO GO BACK AND REVIEW OUR POLICIES AT THE MOST FUNDAMENTAL LEVEL. NOW THAT'S ALL I WAS GOING TO SAY ABOUT BOSNIA. I'LL FIELD A FEW QUESTIONS IF YOU WOULD LIKE BUT I HAVE TO TELL YOU I CAN NOT DESCRIBE TO YOU WHAT WE DISCUSSED IN THE MEETING THIS MORNING. I CAN TELL YOU WE DID NOT ARRIVE AT DECISIONS.

QUESTION: WOULD YOU SAY THAT THOSE OPTIONS LEAN MORE TOWARD OR AT LEAST INCLUDE, IN A LARGE PART, A STICK AS WELL AS THE CARROT CONSIDERING THE FACT THE SERBS HAVE NOT RESPONDED TO ANYTHING BUT A STICK...I MEAN, THEY RESPONDED TO THE THREAT OF BOMBING IN SARAJEVO BUT THEY HAVEN'T RESPONDED TO...

SECRETARY PERRY: WE REALLY CONSIDERED A VERY WIDE RANGE OF OPTIONS, INCLUDING DIPLOMATIC AND MILITARY, BUT WE ARE NOT LIMITED TO ANY OF THOSE.

QUESTION: WHEN YOU SAY THAT "WE" MIGHT BREAK OUT OF THE CURRENT POLICY YOU MEAN THE UNITED STATES, NOT NATO. YOU ARE TALKING ABOUT WHAT THE UNITED STATES COULD DO, RIGHT?

SECRETARY PERRY: ANYTHING THAT COMES OUT OF THIS POLICY STILL HAS TO TAKE INTO ACCOUNT THE REALLY FUNDAMENTAL FACT THAT THE UNITED NATIONS HAS MORE THAN TEN THOUSAND TROOPS ON THE GROUND AND ANYTHING WE DO HAS TO TAKE THAT INTO ACCOUNT. NOW AS YOU KNOW, MR. AKASHI SUGGESTED A FEW DAYS AGO, THAT THE UNITED NATIONS MIGHT TERMINATE THAT OPERATION. WE HOPE THAT DOESN'T HAPPEN. WE DON'T BELIEVE THAT IT IS GOING TO HAPPEN. THAT WOULD FUNDAMENTALLY CHANGE THE SITUATION IF IT DID.

QUESTION: IS THE STRATEGY NOW TO HAVE SOME FURTHER CONSULTATIONS WITH THE NATO ALLIES? AND WHAT KIND OF TIME FRAME MIGHT WE BE TALKING ABOUT IN TERMS WHEN WE MIGHT SEE SOME ACTION.

SECRETARY PERRY: ANY OUTCOME OR DECISION MADE BY THE UNITED STATES THAT WOULD INVOLVE A CHANGE OF POLICY, NEW PROGRAM AND SO ON, WE WOULD HAVE TO CONSULT WITH, NOT ONLY WITH OUR NATO ALLIES, WE WOULD HAVE TO CONSULT WITH THE U.N. AS WELL. BECAUSE THAT IS

JUST A FACT OF LIFE. THE FACT WE HAVE TO DEAL WITH, THAT THOSE UN TROOPS ON THE GROUND ARE A FACT OF LIFE AND INFLUENCE ANYTHING WE CAN DO.

QUESTION: MR. SECRETARY, WHY DO YOU OBJECT TO TERMINATING THAT... WHY DO YOU HOPE THAT IT NOT BE TERMINATED GIVEN THAT IT HAS BEEN A FUNDAMENTAL THORN IN THE SIDE OF PEOPLE WANTING TO PLAN OR CONSIDER OTHER OPTIONS, MORE AGGRESSIVE OPTIONS?

SECRETARY PERRY: I GO BACK, JEFF, TO WHAT I SAID, THAT I BELIEVE WE HAVE HAD SOME REAL SUCCESSES IN THE LAST COUPLE OF MONTHS. WE'VE HAD SOME MOMENTUM. NOT WITHSTANDING THAT, WE ARE WILLING TO WRITE OFF THE MOMENTUM TOWARDS REACHING CESSATION OF HOSTILITIES AND A PEACE AGREEMENT. I BELIEVE FOR THAT TO HAPPEN THOSE UN FORCES HAVE TO BE THERE. IF THE UN FORCES PULL OUT WE ARE REALLY BACK TO GROUND ZERO.

QUESTION: KOZYREV SOUNDED ANGRY AND DISHEARTENED AT THE SUGGESTION THAT THE SERBS HAD LIED TO HIM OVER AND OVER AND OVER. DO YOU THINK THAT THE RUSSIANS NOW WILL BE MORE AMENABLE TO USING FORCE AGAINST THE SERBS?

SECRETARY PERRY: I WOULD NOT WANT TO SPECULATE ON THAT, BUT I WILL SAY THAT ANYTHING THAT WE DO AND ANYTHING WE PROPOSE IN THE WAY OF DIPLOMATIC INITIATIVES, WE WILL CERTAINLY CONSULT VERY CLOSELY WITH THE RUSSIANS. WE SEE THEM AS IMPORTANT PLAYERS.

QUESTION: ONLY ON MILITARY INITIATIVES?

SECRETARY PERRY: ANY INITIATIVE WE CONSIDER. AND ANYTHING WE CONSIDER WOULD HAVE TO START OFF WITH AND BE TIED TO SOME KIND OF A DIPLOMATIC INITIATIVE.

QUESTION: DO YOU THINK IT POSSIBLE FOR NATO TO LEAVE THE DOWNING OF THE NATO JET ENTIRELY UNANSWERED AND FOR NATO TO CONTINUE AS A CREDIBLE ORGANIZATION?

SECRETARY PERRY: TOM, I AM NOT GOING TO DEAL WITH THAT ONE DIRECTLY. WE HAVE, AS I SAID, THERE ARE GOING TO BE A WHOLE NEW SET OF DECISIONS MADE IN THIS MEETING IN THE NEXT DAY OR TWO AND THEY WILL HAVE TO BE DISCUSSED WITH NATO, THEY WILL HAVE TO BE DISCUSSED WITH THE UNITED NATIONS. I THINK THERE WILL BE VIGOROUS ACTION COME OUT OF THIS AND I AM NOT FREE TO DISCUSS WHAT THAT MIGHT BE.

QUESTION: DID YOU MEAN COMING FROM THE HILL AGAIN TO LIFT THE ARMS EMBARGO TO GIVE THE MUSLIMS A BETTER CHANCE. THAT WAS TAKEN TO --

THE ALLIES LAST YEAR THEY WOULD NOT ACCEPT IT. DO YOU THINK AFTER GORAZDE THEY MIGHT BE MORE WILLING TO ACCEPT SOMETHING LIKE THAT?

SECRETARY PERRY: THAT IS JUST SPECULATION AT THIS POINT. AGAIN, IT IS CLEARLY ONE OF THE OPTIONS GOING TO HAVE TO BE CONSIDERED AND AS YOU CONSIDER THAT OPTION...THE PRESIDENT, I THINK, SAID IT VERY WELL THIS MORNING...WHICH IS, IT IS HARD TO IMAGINE CONSIDERING THAT OPTION UNILATERALLY. YOU HAVE TO...IN THAT NATURE, IN FACT I WOULD BE MORE GENERAL. THAT IS, ALMOST ANYTHING WE MIGHT CONSIDER DOING IN THE CHANGE OF POLICY CAN NOT BE DONE UNILATERALLY, YOU HAVE TO CONSULT CLEARLY WITH ALLIES AND WITH THE UN.

QUESTION: YOU TOOK A LOT OF FLAK WITH THE STATEMENT THAT YOU MADE THAT THE UNITED STATES WOULD NOT ACT TO PREVENT THE FALL OF GORAZDE. THE STATEMENT THAT YOU MADE ON NBC. DO YOU FEEL AT ALL VINDICATED WITH WHAT HAS HAPPENED IN THE LAST WEEK OR SO IN THE SENSE THAT THE U.S. HAS NOT STEPPED IN, THAT YOU WERE ACCURATELY PORTRAYING THE U.S. POLICY?

SECRETARY PERRY: NO I DO NOT FEEL VINDICATED. IT IS HARD TO FEEL VINDICATED OR HAPPY ABOUT WHAT I THINK IS A VERY NEGATIVE TURN OF EVENTS. IT WAS A REAL DISASTER, NOT ONLY FOR THE PEOPLE IN GORAZDE... AS I SAID IT HAS GIVEN THE MOMENTUM OF OUR POLICY A REAL SETBACK. IT DID UNFORTUNATELY DEMONSTRATE TO THOSE WHO MAY NOT HAVE SEEN IT, THAT WE ARE NOT THE COMBATANTS IN A WAR THERE. WE ARE THERE TO SUPPORT THE UN PEACEKEEPING OPERATIONS WITH VERY SPECIFIC AND VERY LIMITED USE OF AIR POWER. NOW THAT IS NOT TO SAY THAT OUR POLICY WILL FOREVER BE SO LIMITED, BUT THAT'S WHAT IT WAS AT THE TIME THAT I MADE THAT STATEMENT AND THAT IS WHAT IT STILL IS TODAY. THE PRESIDENT REITERATED THAT THIS MORNING IN HIS PRESS CONFERENCE IN DESCRIBING THE LIMITS OF WHAT WE COULD DO IN ORDER TO RESPOND TO THE REQUESTS FOR CLOSE AIR SUPPORT FROM THE UNITED NATIONS' FORCES. FOR US TO TAKE ANY MORE UNILATERAL MILITARY ACTION FALLS OUTSIDE OF ANY OF THE RESOLUTIONS THAT WE ARE ACTING UNDER TODAY AND REALLY WOULD BE A MAJOR CHANGE IN POLICY. NOW AS I SAID, WE ARE LOOKING AT OUR POLICY AND CONSIDERING A WIDE RANGE OF OPTIONS AT THIS POINT. AT THE TIME THAT I MADE THE STATEMENT AND STILL TODAY, IT IS TRUE THAT WE ARE NOT IN BOSNIA AS COMBATANTS ON THE SIDE OF THE MUSLIMS. WE ARE THERE TO SUPPORT THE UN PEACEKEEPING FORCES WITH VERY SPECIFIC USES OF AIR POWER THROUGH NATO.

QUESTION: IN RETROSPECT, DO YOU THINK THAT EMBOLDENED THE BOSNIAN SERBS AT ALL?

SECRETARY PERRY: I THINK THEY KNEW EXACTLY WHAT OUR LIMITATIONS WERE. IT MAY HAVE BEEN SOME PEOPLE IN THE UNITED STATES WHO WERE

CONFUSED ABOUT WHAT OUR COMMITMENT WAS, BUT I DO NOT THINK THE SERBS WERE AT ALL CONFUSED AS TO WHAT OUR COMMITMENT WAS. NOW THE OTHER PART OF THAT, WHICH I HAVE TRIED ALSO TO MAKE CLEAR, WAS IN SAYING WE WERE NOT GOING TO BECOME COMBATANTS IN THE WAR, I ALSO TRIED TO MAKE CLEAR, IN FACT IN THAT VERY STATEMENT I STATED CLEARLY THAT WE WERE PREPARED TO PROVIDE CLOSE AIR SUPPORT TO SUPPORT THE UN AND INDEED WE DID PROVIDE THAT CLOSE AIR SUPPORT WHEN ASKED. BUT I RECOGNIZED FULLY AT THE TIME THE LIMITATIONS OF WHAT AIR POWER CAN DO IN PROVIDING CLOSE AIR SUPPORT AND ALSO THE LIMITATION OF THE UN FORCES IN BEING ABLE TO ASKED FOR THE CLOSE AIR SUPPORT BECAUSE OF THE VULNERABILITY OF THE UN FORCES.

QUESTION: THERE WERE CALLS FROM CONGRESSMEN OVER THE WEEKEND FOR EXPANDED AIRSTRIKES, INCLUDING MUNITION DUMPS, SUPPLY LINES, MUCH FARTHER THAN ANYTHING THAT HAS HAPPENED NOW. HOW REALISTIC DO YOU CONSIDER SUCH MISSIONS.

SECRETARY PERRY: I THINK THAT I AM GO SUGGEST THAT WE SWITCH TO ILORU. IT IS THAT THAT IS EXACTLY THE KIND OF QUESTIONS THAT WE WERE LOOKING AT THIS MORNING AND WE WILL HAVE SOME DECISIONS AND SOME JUDGMENTS ON THOSE WITHIN A DAY OR TWO, BUT I WOULD JUST BE SPECULATING AT THIS POINT.

QUESTION: YOU HAVE STRESSED OVER AND AGAIN THAT THE UNITED STATES WILL NOT BECOME A COMBATANT IN THIS.

SECRETARY PERRY: WHAT I SAID WAS THAT OUR POLICY, TO DATE, DID NOT ALLOW US TO BECOME A COMBATANT.

QUESTION: MIGHT THIS NEW POLICY ALLOW THE UNITED STATES TO BECOME A COMBATANT ALTHOUGH TEMPORARILY TO DRIVE THE SERBS BACK TO THE BARGAINING TABLE AND THEREFORE ADVANCE THE PEACE PROCESS.

SECRETARY PERRY: AGAIN, I DO NOT WANT TO SPECULATE ON THAT AT THIS STAGE, CHARLIE. I WOULD JUST BE TRYING TO GUESS OR PREEMPT THE DECISION THAT THE PRESIDENT WILL BE ANNOUNCING LATER THIS WEEK.

QUESTION: IS THAT WITHIN THE RANGE OF OUR OPTIONS, A POSSIBILITY?

SECRETARY PERRY: NO COMMENT. YOU'VE MILKED ME DRY AND THEN SOME ON BOSNIA, BELIEVE ME.

ON KOREA, LET ME START OFF WITH A FEW BASIC POINTS AND THROW IT OPEN FOR QUESTIONS AGAIN. I START OFF WITH A POINT WHICH IS THAT THE NORTH THAT NORTHEAST ASIA IS OF CRUCIAL IMPORTANCE TO THE UNITED STATES FOREIGN POLICY AND NATIONAL SECURITY OBJECTIVES. I HAVE GIVEN A LONG

TALK ON THAT SUBJECT ABOUT A YEAR IN TOKYO, BUT BASICALLY, IT FOCUSED ON THE ECONOMIC IMPORTANCE OF THE ASIAN PACIFIC AREA TO THE UNITED STATES, NUMBER ONE. AND, NUMBER TWO, ON THE FACT THAT WE HAVE, THROUGH OUR PRESENCE THERE...HAVE ESSENTIALLY MAINTAINED A PEACE AND STABILITY IN THAT AREA FOR DECADES NOW. IT IS AN ALTERNATIVE WAY OF MAINTAINING PEACE AND STABILITY TO WHAT NATO HAS BEEN IN EUROPE. ALMOST EVERY LEADER IN ASIA THAT I HAVE TALKED WITH AGREES THAT WERE IT NOT FOR THE US PRESENCE THERE, THAT IT WOULD BE A VERY UNSTABLE AND VERY TROUBLED REGION FROM A SECURITY POINT OF VIEW. I START OFF THEN WITH THE VIEW THE SECURITY OF NORTHEAST ASIA IS VERY IMPORTANT TO THE UNITED STATES AND THAT OUR MILITARY PRESENCE THERE IS A KEY CONTRIBUTOR TO THAT HAPPENING. SECOND POINT IS THAT THE EMERGENCE OF A NUCLEAR WEAPON PROGRAM IN NORTH KOREA IS A VERY CRITICAL DESTABILIZING FACTOR. I WILL COME BACK TO THAT WITH YOUR QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS, BECAUSE I KNOW THAT THERE IS A LOT OF DEBATE AND DISCUSSION ON THAT. BUT THAT EMPHASIZES TO ME THE IMPORTANCE OF THE NATIONAL SECURITY ISSUES IN NORTHEAST ASIA. THEREFORE AS I SAY TO MYSELF WHY AM I MAKING THIS TRIP AT THIS TIME WHEN I'VE GOT ALL SORTS OF OTHER PROBLEMS GOING ON. THIS IS A VERY IMPORTANT PART OF THE WORLD, ITS IMPORTANCE IS AGGRAVATED BY THE NUCLEAR WEAPON PROGRAM AND NUMBER ONE WE NEED TO SUSTAIN AND DEMONSTRATE SOLIDARITY WITH OUR ALLIES IN THAT REGION. THAT IS REALLY OUR NUMBER ONE OBJECTIVE. WE HAVE TO HAVE A COMMON VIEW, WE AND SOUTH KOREA AND JAPAN ON WHAT THE THREAT TO SECURITY IS IN THAT AREA AND WE HAVE TO HAVE A COMMON DEFENSE PLAN FOR HOW WE ARE GOING TO MEET WITH THAT. AND SO SOLIDARITY, I GUESS, IS THE NUMBER ONE OBJECTIVE OF THE MEETING.

SECONDLY, THERE ARE A WHOLE NEW SET OF LEADERS IN NATIONAL SECURITY. IN THE UNITED STATES, IN KOREA AND IN JAPAN. ALL THREE OF THOSE NATIONS HAVE WITHIN THE LAST SIX MONTHS OR SO, NEW MINISTERS OF DEFENSE, WHO HAVE NOT MET EACH OTHER YET. IN PURSUING THESE NATIONAL SECURITY OBJECTIVES, I HAVE FOUND THAT DEVELOPING CLOSE COLLEGIAL RELATIONS WITH MY COUNTERPARTS IS A VERY IMPORTANT PART OF MY MISSION, SO I AM GOING TO INITIATE THOSE CONTACTS WITH THE MINISTER OF NATIONAL DEFENSE IN KOREA, GENERAL RHEE AND WITH THE MINISTER OF DEFENSE IN JAPAN, MR. AICHI. I HAVE INVITED BOTH OF THEM TO THE UNITED STATES AS WELL. MR. AICHI WILL BE COMING TO THE UNITED STATES IN MAY, AND I EXPECT THAT MR. RHEE WILL BE COMING SOMETIME IN THE EARLY SUMMER. IN ADDITION TO THAT WE NEED TO CONTINUE TO BUILD ON THE RELATIONS WITH THE OTHER MEMBERS OF THE NATIONAL SECURITY APPARATUS. IN THE CASE OF KOREA, THE PRESIDENT, THE NATIONAL SECURITY ADVISER, AND THE FOREIGN MINISTER ARE ALL PEOPLE WHO I MET FIRST A YEAR AGO, WHEN I WAS OVER AS THE DEPUTY SECRETARY AND HAVE MET TWO OF THE THREE OF THEM SINCE THEN WHEN THEY HAVE COME TO

THE UNITED STATES. IN THEIR CASES IT IS A MATTER OF BUILDING ON RELATIONS THAT HAVE ALREADY BEEN ESTABLISHED.

NOW THE SUBSTANCE OF OUR POLICY THERE IS, FIRST OF ALL, TO DEVELOP AND PURSUE THE DIPLOMATIC DIALOGUE WHICH WE ARE HAVING. I THINK THAT YOU ARE ALL AWARE THAT AMBASSADOR GALUCCI IS ALREADY OVER THERE. HE PRECEDED OUR TRIP BY A FEW DAYS AND WILL BE JOINING ME IN ALL OF THE MEETINGS THAT I HAVE IN KOREA. SECONDLY, WHEN WE TALK TO THESE LEADERS IN KOREA AND THEN LATER ON IN JAPAN, WE NEED TO DEMONSTRATE HOW IMPORTANT WE REGARD THIS REGION AND THAT WE ARE INDEED RESOLUTE ALLIES. I HAVE ALWAYS BELIEVED THAT AND I TEND TO TAKE IT FOR GRANTED. HOWEVER, I HAVE LEARNED IN MY VISITS TO KOREA AND JAPAN THAT THEY DO NOT ALWAYS TAKE IT FOR GRANTED. IN JAPAN, FOR EXAMPLE, THEY ARE CONFUSED BECAUSE WE ARE IN A CONFRONTATION WITH THEM ON TRADE AND THEREFORE WE MIGHT BE IN A CONFRONTATION WITH THEM ON NATIONAL SECURITY, AND BELIEVE ME WE HAVE BEEN ABLE TO SEPARATE OUT THOSE TWO ISSUES. IN THE CASE OF KOREA, BECAUSE WE HAD A FEW MONTHS OF DIFFERENCE ON THE TIMING OF THE PATRIOT DEPLOYMENT, WE WANT TO BE SURE THAT A RATHER SMALL, DETAILED ISSUE LIKE THAT DOESN'T GET IN THE WAY OF THE LARGER SOLIDARITY VIEW THAT WE HAVE. BESIDES TALKING WITH THE NATIONAL SECURITY OFFICIALS IN THOSE TWO COUNTRIES, I WILL BE TALKING TO OUR COMMANDERS IN THE FIELD. IN THE CASE OF KOREA, BOTH GENERAL LUCK AND HIS AMERICAN STAFF AND MINISTER RHEE AND THE FIELD COMMANDER THAT THEY HAVE IN (INAUDIBLE). I THINK THAT YOU ARE ALL AWARE THAT WE HAVE COMBINED FORCES, THE AMERICAN AND THE KOREAN FORCES ARE ALL UNDER A SINGLE COMMAND STRUCTURE AND THAT GENERAL LUCK IS THE COMMANDER OF BOTH OF THOSE. WHAT WILL I BE TALKING TO THEM ABOUT. NUMBER ONE, IN A SINGLE WORD, IS READINESS. ANYTIME I GO TO VISIT OUR MILITARY FORCES, READINESS IS NUMBER ONE ON THE LIST. THAT INVOLVES DAY-TO-DAY, MONTH-TO-MONTH DEFENSE PLANNING ISSUES AS WELL AS LONGER TERM MODERNIZATION ISSUES. IT IS ACTIONS THAT WE CAN TAKE FOR U.S. FORCES AND ACTIONS WHICH WE WOULD LIKE TO SEE THE SOUTH KOREANS TAKE THAT SUSTAIN OR IMPROVE THE READINESS OF OUR FORCES IN KOREA.

IN ADDITION TO THAT, I WILL BE MEETING WITH OUR TROOPS OVER THERE. ANY TIME THAT I AM IN THE FIELD, I DIVERT SOME OF MY TIME TO MEETING WITH THE COMMANDERS IN THE FIELD AND MIXING WITH AS MANY OF THE JUNIOR OFFICERS AND THE ENLISTED PEOPLE AS I CAN. I FIND THAT IMPORTANT, NOT ONLY TO SHOW SOME PRESENCE TO THEM, BUT ALSO TO LEARN FROM THEM A LITTLE BIT ABOUT HOW THEY REGARD THE SITUATION OVER THERE. THERE ARE OTHER SPECIFIC ISSUES WE COULD DISCUSS UNDER READINESS IF YOU LIKE. THE DEPLOYMENT OF PATRIOT, THE CONDUCTING OF TEAM SPIRIT, THE PREPOSITIONING OF EQUIPMENT--THOSE ARE ALL DETAILS UNDER THE BROAD HEADING OF THE MODERNIZATION PROGRAMS BOTH IN

THE UNITED STATES EQUIPMENT AND IN SOUTH KOREAN. ALL OF THOSE ARE DETAILS THAT WE WILL BE DISCUSSING. NO ONE OF THEM I MIGHT SAY, LOOMS AS NECESSARILY ANY MORE IMPORTANCE THAN THE OTHER ONES. ALTHOUGH TWO OF THOSE, NAMELY THE PATRIOT AND TEAM SPIRIT HAVE HAD QUITE A LOT OF MEDIA PLAY. IN MY JUDGMENT THEY ARE JUST TWO SPECIFIC DETAILED ISSUES UNDER THE BROAD HEADING OF READINESS. WITH THAT WHY DON'T I JUST PAUSE AND THROW IT UP FOR QUESTIONS.

QUESTION: MAY I ASK YOU A QUESTION ON THE DIPLOMATIC FRONT WITH KOREA. NOW THAT THE SOUTH KOREANS HAVE AS UNDERSTAND IT... CHANGED THEIR VIEW ON THE TIMING OF THE EXCHANGE OF ENVOYS, WHERE DOES THAT LEAVE THE DISCUSSIONS WITH THE NORTH KOREANS ON THE PROSPECTS FOR MEETINGS WITH THEM?

SECRETARY PERRY: I WILL BE DISCUSSING THIS IN DETAIL WITH THE KOREANS IN PARTICULAR, I THINK AMBASSADOR GALUCCI PROBABLY IS ALREADY DISCUSSING IT WITH THEM THIS WEEKEND. MY VIEW ON THAT IS THAT, THE ONGOING DIALOGUE BETWEEN THE NORTH AND THE SOUTH KOREANS IS A VERY IMPORTANT PART OF THIS DIPLOMATIC PROCESS AS IT UNFOLDS. I HAVE NO PARTICULAR PREFERENCE FOR HOW THAT DIALOGUE PROCEEDS OR WHETHER IT IS DONE BY A EXCHANGE OF ENVOYS OR SOME OTHER MEDIUM. WHAT IS IMPORTANT TO ME IS THAT IT DOES PROCEED. AND THAT IS EXACTLY WHAT AMBASSADOR GALUCCI IS DISCUSSING WITH THEM. WHAT IS THE MODALITY OF PROCEEDING, NOT WHETHER THERE SHOULD BE SUCH A DIALOGUE.

QUESTION: (INAUDIBLE.)

SECRETARY PERRY: IT IS IMPORTANT. THE REASON THAT IT IS IMPORTANT IS BECAUSE IT DOES DEAL WITH THE NUCLEAR QUESTION, BECAUSE IN THE IAEA INSPECTIONS THOSE ARE DESIGNED TO PROVIDE SAFEGUARDS ON THE REACTOR OPERATION THAT IS ONGOING THERE. BUT IT DOES NOT IN ITSELF DO ANYTHING TO... BY ITSELF IT CAN NOT PREVENT THE NORTH KOREANS FROM DEVELOPING AND BUILDING A NUCLEAR BOMB. IT CAN INHIBIT IT IN VARIOUS IMPORTANT WAYS, BUT IT CAN NOT TOTALLY STOP IT. THAT IS BECAUSE AS LONG AS THEY ARE OPERATING THOSE REACTORS AND GENERATING PLUTONIUM, THEY CAN UNDER FULL SAFEGUARDS SIMPLY STORE THAT PLUTONIUM. AND THEN AT SOME LATER DATE, IF THEY DECIDE TO ABROGATE THE TREATY THEY CAN GO VERY QUICKLY TO A NUCLEAR BOMB PROGRAM. NOW THAT IS A SCENARIO THAT IS OF SOME CONCERN TO US. WE ARE ALSO CONCERNED BECAUSE WE KNOW THAT THEY ALREADY HAVE SOME PLUTONIUM AND THEREFORE MAY ALREADY HAVE ONE OR TWO BOMBS - EITHER UNDER DEVELOPMENT OR ALREADY DEVELOPED. THE IAEA SAFEGUARDS DON'T RELATE TO THAT ISSUE, BUT THE NORTH-SOUTH AGREEMENT FOR A NON-NUCLEAR PENINSULA AND FOR THE VERIFICATION

THAT GOES WITH IT RELATES VERY DIRECTLY TO THAT AND SO THE NORTH-SOUTH AGREEMENT IS A VERY IMPORTANT PART OF THIS OVERALL SCHEME.

QUESTION: DO YOU LOOK FOR AN ANNOUNCEMENT ON TEAM SPIRIT DURING THIS VISIT?

SECRETARY PERRY: WE WILL CERTAINLY BE DISCUSSING TEAM SPIRIT AND I
~~WILL BE DISCUSSING TEAM SPIRIT AND IF WE DO~~
 WE WOULD PROBABLY WANT TO MAKE AN ANNOUNCEMENT ABOUT IT.

QUESTION: WHEN DO YOU EXPECT IT WOULD BE HELD IF THE NORTH KOREANS CONTINUE....

SECRETARY PERRY: I DO NOT WANT TO FORECAST THAT RIGHT NOW, CHARLIE. THERE ARE A HOST OF LOGISTICS PLANNING ISSUES THERE BOTH INVOLVING THE PLANNING OF GENERAL LUCK AND HIS STAFF AND THE PLANNING OF THE RICE PLANTING SEASON IN KOREA THAT HAVE TO BE FACTORED IN, WHICH IS A LITTLE BEYOND THE LEVEL OF DETAIL THAT I CAN MAKE A JUDGMENT ON.... TEAM SPIRIT TO ME, IS JUST ONE OF THE MANY READINESS ISSUES. I DON'T WANT TO SPOTLIGHT IT AS AN ISSUE OF OVERRIDING IMPORTANCE.

QUESTION: YOU ALSO MENTIONED THE PATRIOTS, AND CNN HAD THE PATRIOTS ON TV TODAY BEING UNLOADED FROM THE SHIPS. WHEN DO YOU THINK THEY WILL BE DEPLOYED AND READY?

SECRETARY PERRY: A COUPLE OF WEEKS.

QUESTION: IF I COULD JUST POINT OUT, THAT THAT VIDEO WAS FROM REUTERS TELEVISION JUST TO GIVE CHARLIE HIS DUE. THE WEST DOESN'T
 HERE MUCH FROM THE NEWS MEDIA BUT ALL THE OCCASION ON HIS RECENT BIRTHDAY, HE LET SOME JOURNALISTS IN AND HE MADE SOME WHAT WOULD SEEM TO BE SOME RATHER CONCILIATORY STATEMENTS. HAVE YOU SEEN THESE STATEMENTS AND WHAT DO YOU MAKE OF THEM?

SECRETARY PERRY: I AM DELIGHTED WITH THESE STATEMENTS. I THINK THAT THEY ARE JUST GRAND. FIRST OF ALL, IT'S THE FIRST TIME THAT WE HAVE SEEN KIM IL SUNG COME OUT OF ISOLATION FOR MANY, MANY YEARS TO ACTUALLY SPEAK IN PUBLIC. SECONDLY, HIS STATEMENTS WERE VERY MODERATE AND VERY CONCILIATORY. THIRD, HE SPECIFICALLY SAID THEY DON'T HAVE NUCLEAR BOMBS NOR DO THEY HAVE NUCLEAR ASPIRATIONS. HE SAY QUITE THOSE WORDS, BUT I THINK THE THRUST OF IT IS THAT THEY DO NOT HAVE ASPIRATIONS TO HAVE NUCLEAR BOMBS. AND, OF COURSE, WE REALLY WELCOME THAT. AND FINALLY, HE SAID THAT THEY NOTHING TO HIDE AND I WELCOME THAT EVEN MORE, BECAUSE I HOPE WE CAN TRANSLATE THAT INTO AN AGREEMENT TO HAVE SOME QUALIFIED OBSERVERS COME IN TO VERIFY WHAT HE HAS SAID. I TAKE THIS AS A VERY POSITIVE STATEMENT, IF

IT IS FOLLOWED UP BY ALLOWING THE OBSERVERS TO COME IN AND VERIFY WHAT HE SAID, WHICH HE IMPLIED, BUT IT WAS NOT EXPLICIT THAT HE WOULD

QUESTION: DO YOU THOSE AT FACE VALUE OR ARE YOU SOMEWHAT..... SUSPICIOUS OF THEM, GIVEN THE OTHER RHETORIC THAT HAS COME OUT?

SECRETARY PERRY: I TAKE IT AT FACE VALUE UNTIL SUCH TIME AS IT CAN BE VERIFIED. TO ME, JAMIE, IT WAS VERY IMPORTANT THAT HE NOT ONLY SAID THAT HE DIDN'T HAVE THEM, BUT I DON'T REMEMBER THE EXACT LANGUAGE THAT HE USED, BUT SOMETHING ALONG THE LINES THAT THEY HAD NO SECRETS AND THAT THEY WOULD WELCOME OBSERVERS, LANGUAGE TO THAT EFFECT. I TAKE THAT AT FACE VALUE, AND I AM ANXIOUS TO FOLLOW UP ON IT AND I SINCERELY AND DEEPLY HOPE THAT HE IS SINCERE ABOUT THAT AND THAT WE CAN GET THIS WHOLE TENSE SITUATION DEFUSED. THAT WOULD JUST BE WONDERFUL NEWS IF IT TURNS OUT TO BE TRUE.

QUESTION: HE ALSO INDICATED THAT HE WOULD LIKE TO VISIT THE UNITED STATES, THOUGH HE DIDN'T SAY IN ANY KIND OF OFFICIAL CAPACITY. HE SAID HE WANTED TO DO SOME HUNTING HERE.

SECRETARY PERRY: I DON'T KNOW WHERE HE IS GOING TO HUNT FOR BOAR IN THE UNITED STATES BUT THAT WOULD BE JUST WONDERFUL.

QUESTION: MR. SECRETARY, DOES THE FACT THAT THE IDEA TEAM ON THE MOST RECENT INSPECTION, CONFIRMED THAT SPECIALIZED STEEL FROM JAPAN WAS BEING USED BY THE NORTH KOREANS IN THE FABRICATION PROCESS IN THEIR NUCLEAR PROGRAM. IS THAT DISCONCERTING FOR YOU AND WILL IT PRESENT PROBLEMS BOTH IN KOREA AND IN JAPAN WHEN YOU HAVE DISCUSSIONS WITH OFFICIALS THERE?

SECRETARY PERRY: THE WHOLE QUESTION OF CONTROLLING PROLIFERATION OF TECHNOLOGY IN MATERIALS USED IN THE NUCLEAR WEAPON PROGRAM IS AS YOU KNOW A VERY COMPLEX ONE. THE FACT THAT THE JAPANESE GOVERNMENT WAS LAX IN LETTING CONTROLLED MATERIALS GO TO NORTH KOREA, THAT WOULD BE A MATTER OF SUBSTANTIAL DISCUSSION WITH THE JAPANESE GOVERNMENT. I HAVE TO SAY THAT I DON'T KNOW WHETHER THAT WILL TURN OUT TO BE THE CASE. THERE ARE TWO ISSUES HERE. FIRST OF ALL, THE FACT THAT THE CONTROLLED SUBSTANCE DID GET OUT, ASSUMING THAT'S FULLY VERIFIED. THEN THE NEXT QUESTION IS, WAS THE JAPANESE GOVERNMENT COMPLICIT IN LETTING THAT SUBSTANCE GET OUT BY LETTING IT OUT. AND IF THAT TURNS OUT TO BE TRUE, THEN WE WILL CERTAINLY BE SERIOUSLY CONCERNED. THERE ARE CONTROLS IN THAT REGARD. I THINK IT IS IMPORTANT TO NOTE, THAT WITH THE ENDING OF COCOM, WE AND THE JAPANESE GOVERNMENT AND MANY OTHER WESTERN EUROPEAN GOVERNMENTS ARE DRAMATICALLY

RELAXING THE CONTROLS ON THOUSANDS AND THOUSANDS OF COMMERCIAL PRODUCTS, WHICH IS A GREAT HELP TO THE INDUSTRIES OF ALL OF OUR COUNTRIES. BUT AT THE SAME TIME WE ARE DOING THAT, I FIRMLY BELIEVE THAT WE SHOULD TIGHTEN THE CONTROLS ON THOSE VERY SPECIFIC TECHNOLOGICAL AND CAPABILITY AREAS THAT WE CAN TURN TO MAKING OUR CONTROL IN THOSE AREAS MUCH MORE IMPORTANT. PART OF THE REASONS I SUPPORTED THE LOOSENING OF THE CONTROLS ON THE COMMERCIAL PRODUCTS, THAT WE WERE DEFUSING OUR EFFORTS AND SPENDING TOO MUCH ENERGY AND TIME PREVENTING THE SALE OF PERSONAL COMPUTERS INSTEAD OF FOCUSING ON THE THINGS THAT WERE REALLY HURTING US. AND WE WERE CONTRIBUTING TO WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION.

QUESTION: WILL YOU BE ASKING THE JAPANESE GOVERNMENT FOR AN EXPLANATION OF THIS EPISODE?

SECRETARY PERRY: YES.

QUESTION: DO YOU HAVE ANY FUN IN THIS JOB?

SECRETARY PERRY: YOU BET. REMEMBER WHAT ADLAI STEVENSON SAID IN 1956, WHEN SOMEBODY ASKED HIM, RIGHT AFTER HE LOST HIS LANDSLIDE ELECTION TO EISENHOWER. THEY ASKED, ARE YOU GOING TO RUN AGAIN IN 1956, IT WAS 1952, AND HE SAID LETS GET THAT MAN'S HEAD EXAMINED.

QUESTION: YOU SAID THAT YOU ARE GOING TO BE TAKING UP IN SOUTH KOREA; SOME THINGS THAT THE SOUTH KOREANS CAN DELIVER... MAKE SURE THAT THEY ARE READY AND TO MODERNIZE THEIR FORCES. WHAT ACTIONS ARE YOU GOING TO BE ASKING SOUTH KOREA TO TAKE?

SECRETARY PERRY: WELL, WE ARE GOING TO BE REVIEWING WITH SOUTH KOREA, THEIR READINESS AND MODERNIZATION PROGRAM. WE HAVE IDEAS IN OUR MIND ALREADY OF AREAS OF GAPS IN THEIR PROGRAM, WHICH WE HAVE BEEN DISCUSSING WITH THEM FOR SEVERAL YEARS. WE EXPECT THAT IN THIS REVIEW THAT THEY WILL BE HIGHLIGHTING AREAS OF IMPROVEMENT AND...

ALSO DESCRIBING TO US SOME OF THE AREAS OF IMPROVEMENTS. I THINK THERE ARE TWO QUESTIONS HERE, JEFF. THE FIRST IS WHETHER THEIR LIST OF AREAS OF IMPROVEMENTS IS THE SAME AS OURS, AND IT MAY WELL BE BY NOW. WE HAVE TALKED ABOUT THIS WITH THEM FOR SEVERAL YEARS, AND THEN, SECONDLY, HOW VIGOROUS ARE THEIR PROGRAMS FOR PURSUING THOSE IMPROVEMENTS.

QUESTION: WOULD YOU LIKE TO SEE THEM ACCELERATE SOME OF THEIR MODERNIZATIONS-I MEAN SOME OF THE THINGS I KNOW YOU HAVE BEEN TALKING ABOUT ARE THINGS YOU HAVE THOUGHT ABOUT WAY OUT TO THE

ONE OF THE SEVERAL. WHAT DO YOU THINK ABOUT THE ISSUE IN THE CHINA IS
LOOMING RIGHT NOW.

SECRETARY PERRY: YES, AND I WILL BE IN A BETTER POSITION TO COMMENT AFTER MY DISCUSSION WITH THEM, WHETHER THE ACTUAL PROGRAMS THEY HAVE UNDERWAY ARE VIGOROUS ENOUGH. I WOULD POINT OUT THAT MY REVIEW TOMORROW WILL BE ON ONE LEVEL DETAIL. I DO NOT WANT TO PASS IT OFF TOO LIGHTLY, BUT WE WILL HAVE A LIMITED AMOUNT OF TIME TO DISCUSS MODERNIZATION PROGRAMS. BUT THAT WE MEET EVERY YEAR IN THE SCM AND MCM AND I FORGET WHAT THOSE STAND FOR...ITS A SPECIAL CONSULTATIVE COMMISSION AND WE ALSO HAVE A MILITARY CONSULTATIVE COMMISSION...TO REVIEW PRECISELY THOSE ISSUES AND THOSE COME UP IN THE FALL OF THE YEAR. IN ADDITION TO THAT, WE HAVE MEETINGS BACK AND FORTH BETWEEN OUR DEFENSE MINISTERS WHERE WHEN A MINISTER COMES TO THE UNITED STATES, WE HAVE A FULL DAY TO DISCUSS THOSE ISSUES. SO THERE ARE SEVERAL DIFFERENT VENUES FOR DISCUSSING THESE ISSUES. WE WILL DISCUSS THEM TOMORROW AND I EXPECT TO HAVE A MUCH BETTER INFORMED JUDGMENT ON WHETHER WE AND THEY HAVE THE SAME VIEW AS TO BOTH THE RELATIVE PRIORITY AND THE PACE OF THESE MODERNIZATION PROGRAMS.

QUESTION: I AM JUST TRYING TO FIGURE OUT IF YOU HAD SOMETHING IN MIND THAT YOU WANTED THEM TO DO RIGHT NOW, THAT MAY NOT CURRENTLY BE ON THEIR AGENDA OR IN THEIR PLANNING PROCESS RIGHT NOW.

SECRETARY PERRY: AS FAR AS I KNOW, JEFF, EVERYTHING THAT WE INSTITUTIONALLY HAD IN MIND AND I PERSONALLY HAD IN MIND, HAVE BEEN..... OVER THE LAST YEAR BEEN DISCUSSED WITH THEM IN THESE OTHER MEETINGS AND THE LAST FEEDBACK I GET FROM GENERAL LUCK THAT THEY HAVE ALL OF THOSE ITEMS ON THEIR AGENDA, AND THE ISSUE ONLY IS SUFFICIENT PRIORITY AND SUFFICIENT PACE. AND THAT IS WHAT I WILL BE TRYING TO MAKE A JUDGMENT OF.

QUESTION: HOW MANY PATRIOT BATTERIES IN A BATTALION...

ANSWER: (INAUDIBLE)

QUESTION: A VERY GENERAL QUESTION, WHICH IS, THERE HAS BEEN A ROLLER COASTER WITH NORTH KOREA WITH RISING AND FALLING TENSIONS. IS IT YOUR ASSESSMENT THAT, AS YOU ARE HEADING TO SOUTH KOREA, WE ARE AT A TIME OF RISING OR FALLING TENSIONS AND HOW DO YOU FEEL GENERALLY OPTIMISTIC OR PESSIMISTIC?

SECRETARY PERRY: LET ME START OFF BY REPEATING WHAT I'VE SAID IN SEVERAL OTHER MEETINGS WHICH IS I HAVE NEVER BELIEVED DURING THIS ROLLER COASTER PERIOD THAT WE ARE IN DANGER OF AN IMMINENT MILITARY

CONFRONTATION WITH NORTH KOREA. MY CONCERN IS NOT IN THE IMMEDIATE FUTURE, IT IS THAT, OVER TIME, THEY WILL DEVELOP A REALLY SIGNIFICANT NUCLEAR CAPABILITY AND THAT WOULD BE VERY DESTABILIZING. NOW TO HEAD THIS OFF, SOMETIMES IT IS EASIER TO HEAD IT OFF THAN OTHERS AND THE NEXT BEST OPPORTUNITY TO HEAD IT OFF IS WHEN THEY PULL THE NUCLEAR FUEL FROM THIS REACTOR IN THE NEXT COUPLE OF MONTHS. SO THERE IS A VERY IMPORTANT EVENT HAPPENING IN THE NEAR FUTURE AND THAT GIVES SOME URGENCY TO OUR DIPLOMACY TO TRY TO GET THAT FUEL UNDER IAEA CONTROL BEFORE IT'S PULLED OUT AND DISAPPEARS INTO THE WOODWORK LIKE THE OTHER PLUTONIUM THAT THEY TOOK OUT DID. SO THAT IS THE ONLY THING THAT HAS IMMEDIATE TIMING URGENCY ASSOCIATED WITH IT. BUT FOR THEM TO HAVE A SIGNIFICANT NUCLEAR CAPABILITY ON MEDIUM LONG RANGE BALLISTIC MISSILES IS A GOOD MANY, MONTHS AWAY IN THE FUTURE. I THINK THERE HAS BEEN AN OVER-REACTING OF THE...IN FACT THIS IS A REALLY STRANGE SITUATIONS THAT ON THE ONE HAND SOME PEOPLE ARE INFLAMING THIS ISSUE ALMOST WITH WAR HYSTERIA, WHICH I THINK IS ENTIRELY INAPPROPRIATE AND, ON THE OTHER HAND, PEOPLE DON'T TAKE IT SERIOUSLY AT ALL. THEY SIMPLY SAY THAT THERE IS NO NUCLEAR BOMB. AS I HAVE SAID, I HOPE THAT THAT IS CORRECT, BUT THE EVIDENCE OF WHAT THEY ARE DOING WITH THOSE NUCLEAR REACTORS AND THE NUCLEAR PROCESSING GIVES THEM THE MATERIAL FROM WHICH THEY COULD GO VERY QUICKLY TO NUCLEAR BOMBS....AND THAT'S A MEDIUM TO LONG RANGE PROBLEM AND A MATTER OF CONCERN. THAT'S WHAT WE OUGHT TO BE FOCUSING ON.

THANK YOU.

-END-

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U.S. and U.N. Weigh Strategy Against Serbs

Much Tougher Ultimatums
Are Possible in Effort
To Defend Safe Areas

By CARLA ANNE ROBBINS
Staff Reporter of THE WALL STREET JOURNAL
WASHINGTON—Stung by charges that they abandoned Gorazde to besieging Serb forces, U.S. and United Nations officials again raised the prospect of more-forceful military action to defend the few remaining Muslim "safe areas" in Bosnia.

President Clinton will meet with his top foreign-policy advisers this morning to discuss this most recent iteration of U.S. strategy in Bosnia. But senior officials said their idea is to issue an ultimatum to Bosnian Serbs to at least cease their attacks on the five U.N.-protected enclaves or face air strikes from the North Atlantic Treaty Organization.

Defense Secretary William Perry said last night that the administration is reconsidering its entire approach to the Bosnian war and, among other things, is contemplating broader military action.

"Vigorous action will come out of this," he told reporters accompanying him aboard his aircraft on a brief trip to South

Korea and Japan. "There will be a set of new actions, no question about that."

In response to what he called "very grim" behavior by the Serbs, Mr. Perry said, "a very wide range" of diplomatic and military options is being considered, specifically including lifting the arms embargo on the Bosnian Muslims.

Last night, U.N. Secretary General Boutros Boutros-Ghali signaled his support for such a policy change, saying he had asked NATO to give him the authority to call in air strikes to defend all the U.N. safe areas. But whether anything can rescue Gorazde, where the Serbs have seized all but the center of town, is far from clear.

It also isn't clear how ambitious the NATO ultimatum will be; demanding that the Serbs simply halt their attacks or go further and give up weapons or territory.

The Bosnian Serbs gave in to a joint U.N.-NATO ultimatum for Sarajevo in February, without the launching of any air strikes. NATO's show of resolve around Sarajevo also jump-started peace negotiations, which later died after the attacks on Gorazde. U.S. officials are clearly hoping that a new round of ultimatums will resurrect peace talks as well as deter the Serbs from building on their success in Gorazde and turning their guns on other enclaves.

But it may not be so easy next time. What little credibility the West has with the Serbs has been badly damaged by its flaccid and ultimately failed attempts to defend Gorazde during the past week. U.S. officials, however, insisted that Gorazde—where NATO efforts were formally limited

taly Churkin blistered the Serbs for lying to him repeatedly and said that Russia couldn't afford to support "a group of Bosnian Serb extremists [who] have fallen ill with the madness of war." Last night, however, Yuli Vorontsov, Russia's U.N. representative, warned that more air strikes could lead to disaster.

Considerable Debate Seen

The breadth of the NATO ultimatum also could be the subject of considerable debate among the allies. In Sarajevo, for example, NATO demanded that the Serbs not only cease their shelling but also withdraw or abandon all their heavy weapons within a 12-mile "exclusion zone." A far less ambitious ultimatum would simply demand that the Serbs cease shelling the enclaves, while giving up neither territory nor weaponry.

One U.S. official said last night that the ultimatums could vary considerably from safe area to safe area "depending on the situation on the ground, Serb motivation geography and NATO's will."

For the threats to work, the U.N. will

WASHINGTON POST

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Perry Visits S. Korea for Military Talks

SEOUL—Secretary of Defense William J. Perry arrived here yesterday for two days of discussions with South Korean and U.S. military officials about the timing of a major joint military exercise and the status of other preparations to defend against a potential attack by North Korea.

"What I will be talking to them about . . . in a single word, is readiness," Perry said of his scheduled meetings today with President Kim Young Sam, Defense Minister Rhee Byong Tae, national security adviser Chung Chong Wook and Foreign Minister Han Sang Joo.

Despite harsh diplomatic rhetoric from North Korea in recent weeks, "I have never believed . . . we are in danger of an imminent military confrontation," Perry told reporters traveling with him from Washington. But he said he wants to help deter North Korean aggression by inspecting defensive preparations and publicly reinforcing Washington's commitment to come to Seoul's aid if attacked.

—R. Jeffrey Smith

also have to come up with more peacekeepers to monitor compliance. The lack of more troops has been repeatedly cited by the Clinton administration as the primary reason for not extending the Sarajevo ultimatum to other areas. And despite European calls for U.S. peacekeepers, President Clinton has said that no U.S. troops would be sent until a peace agreement has been signed.

While acknowledging these difficulties, a senior U.S. official said that the Serbs blatant defiance of the U.N. and NATO in Gorazde had "changed the dynamics considerably" in Europe, in Russia, and most of all in Washington. Another top U.S. official urged a reporter "not to count the U.S. out of Bosnia. We're ready to do what's necessary to get the negotiations started again."

Whether those negotiations can now be revived—and whether they ultimately produce a workable peace—may well depend on whether the West will now back up its threats with real force.

—Thomas E. Ricks contributed to this article.